

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An ink cartridge comprising:
a container having a bottom surface and defining at least one ink chamber;
- 5 a protruded portion protruded from the bottom surface and defining an ink supply passage;
an ink supply port, provided to the protruded portion, having an opening surface substantially perpendicular to the bottom surface; and
- 10 a guide portion located between the bottom surface and the opening surface.
2. The ink cartridge according to claim 1, further comprising:
a normally-closed valve system provided near the ink supply
- 15 port.
3. The ink cartridge according to claim 1, further comprising:
a recess communicating with the ink chamber and formed in an upper surface of the container; and
- 20 a breakable film sealing the recess.
4. The ink cartridge according to claim 3, further comprising:
a capillary of a narrow groove formed in the upper surface of the container, wherein the recess communicates with the ink
- 25 chamber through the capillary.

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5. An ink jet recording apparatus adapted for use with an ink cartridge, comprising:

a reciprocatively movable carriage;

an ink jet recording head provided on the carriage;

5 an ink guide member through which ink in the ink cartridge being mounted on the carriage is supplied to the ink jet recording head, the ink guide member having a horizontally protruded leading end; and

10 a protrusion, horizontally protruded near the ink guide member, for engagement with the ink cartridge.

A 6. The recording apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising:

15 a breaking system for breaking a film which sealingly covers an atmosphere communicating recess formed in an upper surface of the ink cartridge.

7. The recording apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the breaking system breaks the film before the ink guide member engages the ink cartridge to allow ink to be supplied to the ink jet recording head.

20 8. The ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the ink supply passage extends substantially parallel to the bottom surface.

9. The ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the ink supply passage is disposed at a predetermined distance from 25 the bottom surface and located within an area below the bottom

surface.

10. The ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the ink supply port is connectable to an ink guide member communicating with a recording head of an ink jet recording apparatus.

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A1 11. The ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the guide portion is guided by a protrusion of an ink jet recording apparatus when the ink supply portion is connected to an ink guide member communicating with a recording head of the ink jet recording apparatus.

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